#### **Mission:**

To advance economic prosperity, health and quality of life in Indiana and beyond.





# Sustainability Marketing

A Guide to Success with Sustainability

# Agenda

- Introduction to Sustainability
- Opportunities and Benefits
- Regulations and Market Pressures
- Avoiding Greenwashing
- Tips for Success





# Sustainability

"able to last or continue for a long time" - Merriam Webster



"Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." - UN General Assembly, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

"In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation... even if it requires having skin as thick as the bark of a pine."

- The Constitution of the Iroqouis Nations





# Sustainability Core Concepts

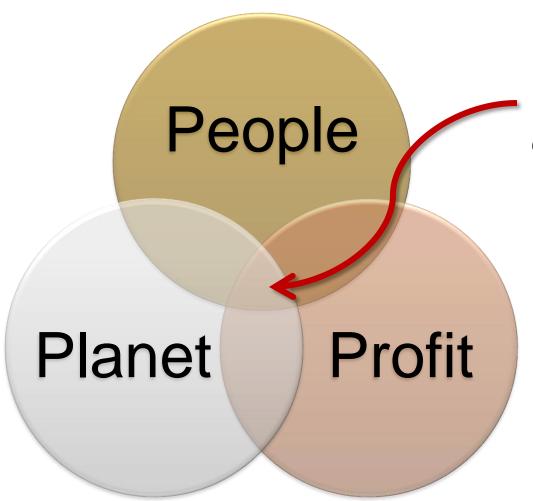
- 1. Sustainability "Triple Bottom Line"
- 2. Environmental WASTE Categories
- 3. 4R WASTE Hierarchy
- 4. WASTE Inputs & Outputs







### **Actual Sustainability**



Sustainability =
delicate balance of
all three factors in
the Triple Bottom
Line





# Sustainability "Triple Bottom Line"

#### Profit (Economic)



- Improves efficiency & lowers costs
- Reduces regulatory compliance costs
- Creates revenue enhancement opportunities

#### Planet (Environmental)



- Reduces demand for resources and energy from nature
- Reduces waste to nature

#### People (Equitable)



- More resources & energy become available for others
- Closing the loop generates new jobs
- Improving quality of life for employees and community







# Environmental WASTE Categories

























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- April 17, 2014 was "a historic day in Europe, where a new law will require its biggest companies to include sustainability factors as part of their annual financial report."
- New EU law affects public companies with over 500 employees
- The largest companies are already on board, and marketing their sustainability efforts to the masses







a public service announcement from **method**.

# THINGS THAT DO NOT BELONG IN TOILETS







- Increasing options for sustainability certifications and seals available for more markets
- Consumers recognize green labels
- 40% of millenials see style, status & environmentalism as intertwined- 2013 survey by BBMG





GLOBAL, SOCIALLY-CONSCIOUS CONSUMER?



66% of consumers prefer to buy products and services from companies that have implemented programs to give back to society





PERCENT WILLING TO PAY EXTRA FOR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FROM COMPANIES COMMITTED TO POSITIVE SOCIAL AND ENVIORMENTAL IMPACT



More than half of all consumers globally say they are willing to pay extra for products and services from sustainable companies





### **Business Opportunities**

- Market distinction
- New growth opportunities & segmentation strategy
  - Niche markets
  - Government
  - Grant funding







#### The Stages of Sustainability

Stage	Description
Stage 1	Green not part of the organization mission
Stage 2	Green enters into the organization mission as it is legally required
Stage 3	The organization considers the proactive application of Green to be consistent with the profit mission
Stage 4	The organization transforms into a Green organization. Green is viewed more as an opportunity than a cost
Stage 5	The organization approaches business as a holistic, restorative company

**Key Attitudes** 

View Environmental Initiatives as Costs

Sustainability can save money

Sustainability part of corporate strategy

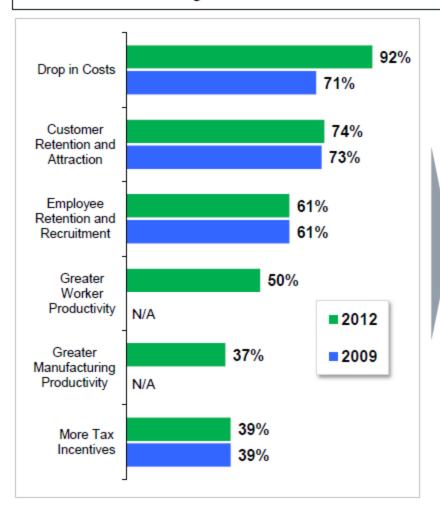
McGraw\_Hill CONSTRUCTION

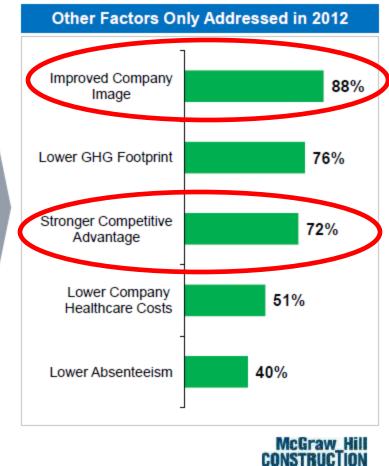






#### Sustainability is Tied to Business Benefit



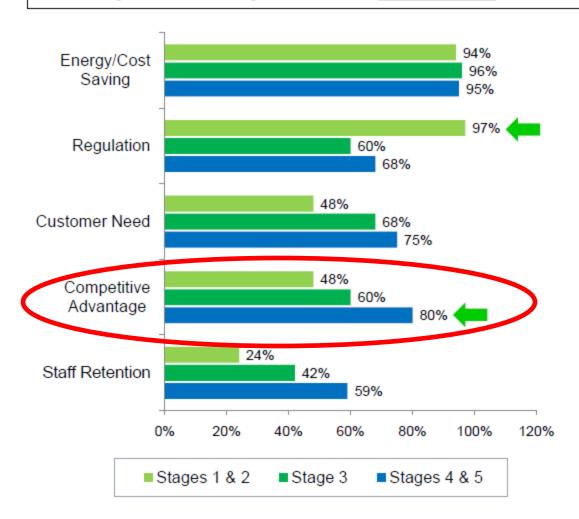






#### SIEMENS

#### Examples of Key Drivers by Stage



- On average, 81%
   Report that the Public is Expecting
   Sustainability from Corporate America up from 66% in 2009
- All are driven by energy and cost savings...but
- Firms in higher stages also recognize importance of intangible metrics

McGraw\_Hill CONSTRUCTION





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#### Common Claims

Inw-VOC Eco-Friendly Organic Content Chemical-Free CARBON NEUTRAL Zero Waste Facility Certified Green





#### Green Guides

- Marketing claims must be backed up with scientific evidence
- Basic Truth-in-Advertising principles still apply
- The Federal Trade Commission tracks and responds to false claims





#### Green Guides





- Green Guides launched in 1992 by Federal Trade Commission
- "designed to help marketers ensure that the claims they make about the environmental attributes of their products are truthful and non-deceptive"





#### Green Guides

- Identifies types of environmental claims the FTC "may or may not find deceptive under Section 5 of the FTC Act."
- "Under Section 5, the agency can take enforcement action against deceptive claims, which ultimately can lead to Commission orders prohibiting deceptive advertising and marketing and fines if those orders are later violated."





- FTC does not address use of the terms "sustainable," "natural," and "organic"
  - "Organic" textiles/ materials are covered by USDA's National Organic Program











- Do not make broad, unqualified comproduct is "environmentally friendly" or "ecofriendly"
- It is your responsibility to research potential trade-offs before marketing something as having an overall environmental benefit
- E.g. "Eco-friendly, made with bamboo!" may be misleading if bamboo harvested is destroying rainforests





#### Degradable

- Do not make unqualified 'degradable' claim for a solid waste product
- Entire product or package MUST completely break down and return to nature within one year after customary disposal
- Items destined for landfills, incinerators, or recycling facilities will NOT degrade within a year





#### Compostable

- All materials in the product or package become part of usable compost safely
- Must compost in about the same time as the materials with which it is composted
- Qualify claim if not possible to safely or timely compost at home





- Certifications and Seals of Approval
  - Covered by the <u>FTC's Endorsement</u>
     <u>Guides</u>
  - Clearly convey the basis for the certification
  - Disclose relationship with endorser if it affects credibility





#### Certifications and Seals of Approval



the BIFMA sustainability standard



- A plush chair with a **BIFMA seal** means that the entire chair takes into account "a company's social actions, energy usage, material selection and human and ecosystem health impacts, level addresses how a product is sustainable from multiple perspectives."
- A plush chair with a **Forest Stewardship Council seal** means that *only* the wood components have been certified, and this seal should come with a qualifier





#### Certifications and Seals of Approval

- Marketers can qualify certifications based on attributes that are too numerous to disclose by saying, "Virtually all products impact the environment. For details on which attributes we evaluated, go to [a website that discusses this product]."
- The marketer should make sure that the website provides the referenced information, and that the information is truthful and accurate.









#### Carbon Offsets

- Use appropriate accounting methods
- Do not sell them more than once
- Disclose whether the offset purchase pays for emission reductions that won't occur for at least two years
- Do not advertise a carbon offset if the law already requires the activity that is the basis of the offset







#### Free-of Claims

- Contains no more than would be found in trace amounts or background levels
- Amount found does not cause harm typically associated with substance
- Substance not intentionally added to product
- Don't claim 'free-of' one substance if it contains another substance with similar environmental risk
- Be careful not to claim "improved" if substance was not there to begin with





- Non-toxic Claims
  - Considered safe for both humans and environment
  - Must provide competent scientific evidence for both







- Made with Renewable Energy
  - "All, or virtually all, the significant manufacturing processes involved in making the product or package are powered with" renewable energy or RECs
  - Can purchase RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates)
  - Or Qualify claims, "Made in a facility that hosts solar energy," if selling own RECs
  - Best to specify, "Made with Wind Energy"





- Made with Renewable Materials
  - Can be misunderstood for 'recyclable' or 'biodegradable'
  - Best to be abundantly clear to avoid confusion
  - "This package is made from 50% plant-based renewable materials. Because we turn fastgrowing plants into bio-plastics, only half of our product is made from petroleum-based materials."





#### Green Guide

Ozone-Friendly or Ozone-Safe

 It is deceptive to misrepresent that a product is ozone-friendly or safe for the ozone layer or

atmosphere





#### Green Guide



Image: gemssty.com

#### Source Reduction

- Refers to reductions in weight, volume, or toxicity for product or packaging
- Clarify comparison baseline
- "10% less weight" vs. "10% less weight than our previous product"





### Green Guide



#### Recyclable

- 60% of consumers/ communities where sold must have access to recycling center that can process
- If not, qualify your claim with, "This product may not be recyclable in your area."
- If it's difficult to recycle, qualify with, "This product is recyclable only in the few communities that have appropriate recycling programs."





### Green Guide





- Recycled Content
  - Only claim for materials diverted from waste stream during manufacturing or after consumer use
  - Qualify claims with percentage, "60% Recycled Content"
  - Qualify recycled content claims clearly and prominently to avoid deception about components that are used, reconditioned, or re-manufactured





### Green Guide

#### Refillable

- Provide a way to refill the package
  - Provide a system to collect and refill the package
  - Sell a product consumers can use to refill the original package.







### Green Guides

- Be careful about broad claims
  - Be specific to qualify details if using a brad claim
  - Do not imply significant environmental benefit
- Seals and Certifications do not negate the need to be clear about actual implications
  - If endorsement comes form agency with "material connection" you should be clear about relationship
- If your product is only partially qualified, be clear: "Made with 50% renewable energy"





# Green Fatigue

- Improving the planet is a daunting task
- Consumers are overwhelmed
- Give consumers an easy choice
- Tell a story to bring the problem to scale





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### **Definition**

Definition of greenwash in English:

# greenwash

Syllabification: green·wash

Pronunciation: /'grēn,wäSH, -,wôSH (h)) /

(also greenwashing)

#### NOUN

Disinformation disseminated by an organization so as to present an environmentally responsible public image:

'the recycling bins in the cafeteria are just feeble examples of their corporate greenwash'





### Common Claims

Eco-Friendly Organic Content Chemical-Free CARBON NEUTRAL Zero Waste Facility Certified Green





### Risk Avoidance

- Greenwashing is a risk that may result in
  - Fines & penalties by FTC
  - Increased liability
  - Increasing consumer demand for transparency
  - Legal retribution
  - Social Media backlash





### Risk Avoidance

- Increasing awareness about growing lists of 'Chemicals of Concern'
- Red flagged lists are becoming prevalent in some industry certifications
  - Cradle to Cradle
  - LEED
- Walmart announced policy to remove 10 priority hazardous chemicals from ALL products in supply chain





### Risk Avoidance

- Pepsico sued for using term "all natural" and other health claims on Naked Juice products
- Class action lawsuit on behalf of Texan resident
- \$9 Million settlement
- Social Media backlash

Liars! I supported your brand because I believed your GMO Free labeling. Now that I know that you all do have GMOs in your product, I am making my switch to other brands such as Bolthouse Farms.







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#### Understand where you are now

- Are you tracking already?
- Do you have a Sustainability Initiative?
- Is there a team or committee?
- Have there been efforts in the past? If so, why didn't they succeed (changing culture, cost?)
- What is your current company culture?
- What are your goals and vision for the future?





#### Understand where you are now

- Consider surveying employees and/or customers
  - What do they know about sustainability?
  - What do they think the company is doing already?
  - What projects would they like to see the company

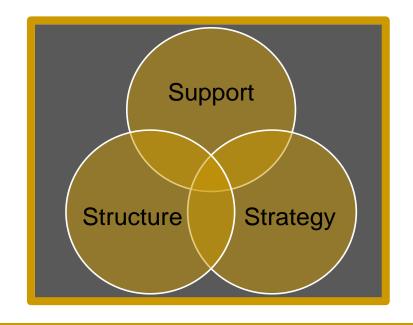
pursue?





## Green Teams....getting started

- 1. Secure Support from Management
- 2. Form a Team
- 3. Develop a Plan







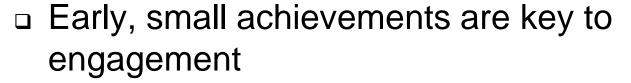
### Verify Results

- Be careful not too overinflate claims or extrapolate
- Consider external verification for new claims
- Business mentors are great critiques!
- Consider getting certifications or endorsements to gain credibility with new sustainability initiatives (BIFMA, etc.)





### Share your Success!



- Newsletters, flyers, company meetings are all great opportunities to let employees know what the company is working towards
- Engage your community and get media coverage!





### Certifications

- Reduce risk with Third Party Certification to back up green claims
- Multiple entities available- choose the right one for your market and your company goals



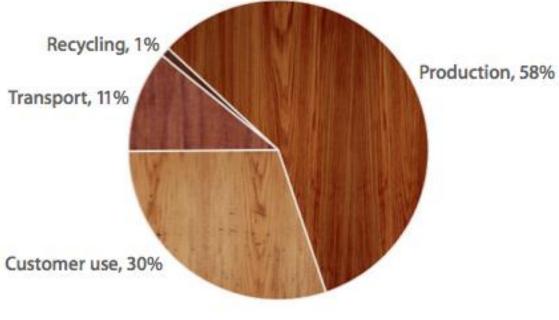




# Transparency Examples

Greenhouse Gas Emissions for iPad (Wi-Fi + 3G model)





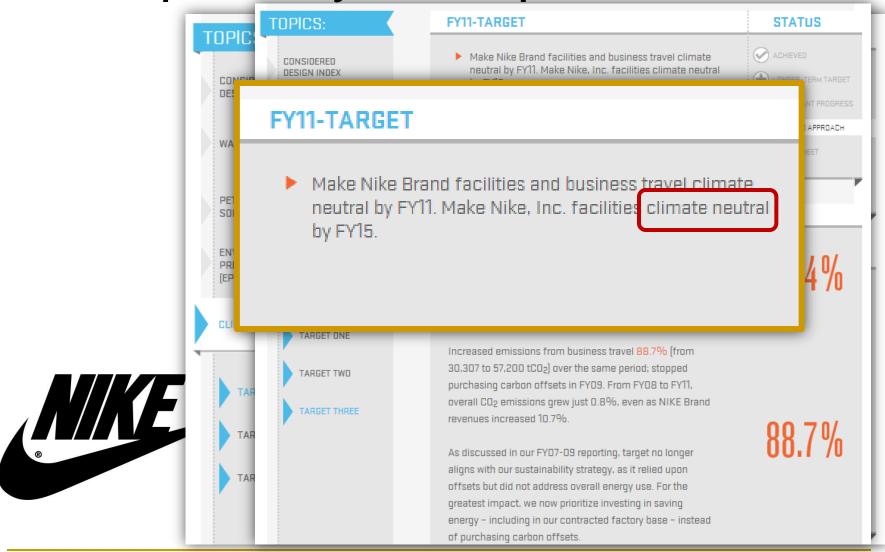
Total greenhouse gas emissions: 130 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e

Source: apple 2014





# Transparency Examples







Source: Nike 2014

# What's Next?







### Conclusion

# Thank you!



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